

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MARCH 2006

TWO DOLLARS



Annual Photography Contest Showcase



Colonel W. Gerald Massengill

Interim Director



It's my pleasure this month to introduce you to the 2005 *Virginia Wildlife Magazine, Annual Photography Showcase* issue. After you have a chance to focus on the stunning collection of photographs from around the state, I think you will agree that there is no better place to call home than Virginia.

Since 1937, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has been bringing you *Virginia Wildlife* magazine each month. Starting with the very first issue, the goal has always been to educate our readers about Virginia's natural resources and to promote safety for all those who enjoy spending time in the outdoors. The Annual Photography Showcase issue is no exception.

What really makes this special issue stand out from others is that it offers ordinary people a chance to contribute to one of the state's oldest and most respected wildlife publications. Through their efforts, and those of the dedicated staff of *Virginia Wildlife* and nationally renowned wildlife photographer and contest coordinator Lynda Richardson, the Annual Photography Showcase issue has become a

chance to offer readers a pictorial journey that highlights some of the best of Virginia's wildlife and natural resources. And, perhaps one of the biggest reasons why this particular issue has become so popular is its ability to display the abundant diversity of wildlife found throughout the state.

It's no wonder wildlife watching has become one of the biggest outdoor activities in the country. Each year thousands of people, who by the way spend millions of dollars, look for the opportunity to "get away from it all" by visiting our national, state and local parks, wildlife management areas and special places like those found on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

After you have had time to look through this issue of *Virginia Wildlife*, I encourage you to pick up your own camera and invite a family member or friend to join you in search of that perfect picture for next year's *Virginia Wildlife Annual Photography Showcase*. You might just realize that it's the perfect excuse to find another reason to spend more time in the outdoors enjoying the things that are really important to you.

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

Commonwealth of Virginia
Timothy M. Kaine, Governor

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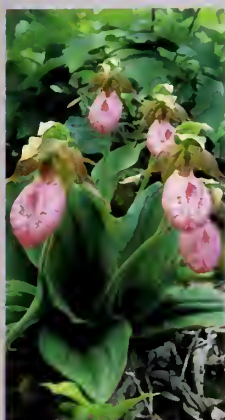
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MARCH CONTENTS



Front Cover: Grand Prize

This year's winner of the Grand Prize, the front cover of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine, goes to Harold Jerrell, of Rose Hill, for his stunning image of a perfect cluster of blooming, pink lady slippers. Harold captured this image in his hometown of

Rose Hill (Lee County). Congratulations on a beautiful photograph Harold! Nikon N90 camera, Nikkor 105mm macro lens, Fuji Velvia 50 slide film, settings not reported.

Back Cover: Grand Prize for Kids

This year's "Kids & Cameras" Grand Prize winner is 16-year-old Christopher Wirth, of Powhatan. Chris is awarded the back cover of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine, to showcase his awesome photograph of Argentine ants drinking from a water droplet in the woods behind his house. Way to spot a great shot, Chris! Canon Powershot A95 (digital) camera, close up mode, settings not reported.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

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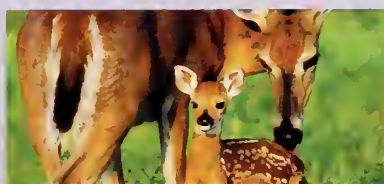
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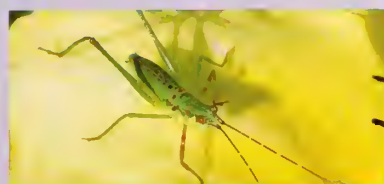
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Virginia Wildlife

Annual Photography Contest Showcase

by Lynda Richardson

“Well folks, it is a digital world out there now,” said *Virginia Wildlife* magazine editor Lee Walker as we walked around the room viewing all of the submissions for this year’s contest. And what a change from last year! Though we had roughly the same number of photographers submitting work (189), the submissions were well over 2,000 slides and prints...with the emphasis on prints made from digital files! Of the 69 winning photographs you will view in this issue of *Virginia Wildlife*, you might be surprised to hear that 49 were digital submissions, only nine were slide film submissions, and 11 were negative film submissions. Quite different from last year where we had more slide and negative submissions.

Or maybe you’re not surprised. “Folks are getting into digital more and more because it’s easy and you have instant gratification once you shoot your pictures,” Lee notes. And the increased submissions could be a reflection of this and the fact that the ease of digital photography has created a renewed interest in the photographic experience.

Another thing that was different about this year’s contest was the “gifts” we found in several submission packages. A large silver binder ring was included with one submission and another contestant sent us two five-dollar bills! (Really folks sending money is not necessary; it’s an honor judging your pictures!) Yes, we knew it was for return postage but PLEASE DO NOT SEND money through the mail. Instead, include a self addressed stamped envelope as required by the contest rules. (You know who you are and we are sending the money back, dam it.)

Another thing we wanted to mention was that the quality of prints varied greatly. There were some really nice photographs that didn’t place because the print quality was bad. For example, some prints did not have enough contrast, were too pixilated, the images were not sharp, or the color was way off. So please, make sure that you are submitting high quality, correctly exposed, sharp prints because you are up against some stiff competition!

And speaking of that....oh my gosh.... The mantra of the two days we spent judging the contest was, “This is going to be totally impossible....” The caliber and diversity of the work was tremendous this year! More professionals are entering but the amateur work has stepped up quite a few notches. We are seeing a lot of new names and we are very excited that many more kids entered this year. As a matter of fact, we were so excited about the number of kids entered, and the quality of their work, that we decided to do something new this year and create a **Grand Prize** for the “Kids and Cameras” category. The award to the best youth photograph is the back cover of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine!

Looking at the various categories, “Birds of a Feather” and “A Bug’s Life” still reign as the most difficult categories to judge. These categories continue to have the highest quality entries and the most submissions. We **agonize** over these categories, argue....a bit, and honestly, it is just too hard to place one image over the other when there are so many great photographs. We debate the quality of the photographs, studying

both print and image quality, which includes lighting, composition and sharpness. We discuss how hard an image was to find or capture and how many times had we already seen similar images. All of these things, and more, are taken into consideration.

One problem that I hated to see when reviewing the contest photographs was how many great photographs were not sharp! There were many en-

“You’ve got to push yourself harder. You’ve got to start looking for pictures nobody else could take. You’ve got to take the tools you have and probe deeper.”

William Albert Allard

tries that were “put into the reject pile” because of lack of focus or sharpness on the subject and bad print quality. So please, you can really increase your chances on winning if you work harder in this department!

With the increased interest in digital photography, the staff at *Virginia Wildlife* has decided it was time to re-introduce the well-loved “Photo Tips” column by yours truly. Starting in April, I will write a monthly column with an emphasis on digital photography. In addition, we want more reader participation so, included in my monthly column will be “Image of the Month” where we will showcase one photograph each month submitted by you! Be sure to watch for details in the up-coming April issue.

I can’t help saying that everyone is a winner in the *Virginia Wildlife* Photography Contest! You have participated in a competition showcasing the beauty and incredible diversity that this Commonwealth has to offer. You hiked up White Top Mountain to capture a cold, wind-swept scene. You explored the beauty of Shenandoah National Park as well as other National Wildlife Refuges and State Parks. And you even captured the moment when tiny ants drank from a drop of water in the woods behind your house. You are all winners because you love and cherish the outdoors. Congratulations! And enjoy!

Scenic Seasons



*"As I walked up a mountain path before
long, I felt a renewed sense of simplicity
and understanding. There was life
reduced to bare essentials, a place with
fewer species, fewer interactions, and a
bare vegetation that the bones of the
land stood out for all to see."*

Galen Rowell

FIRST PLACE

Ruimin Wang

Congratulations to Ruimin Wang, of Fairfax, for his first place win for this stunning autumn image of mist settling into trees in the Shenandoah National Park. (Boy, has he been getting some great shots from there!) Gorgeous image Ruimin! Nikon Coolpix 5700 (digital) camera, Nikkor 8.9-71.2mm lens, 8X optical zoom, settings not reported.



SECOND PLACE

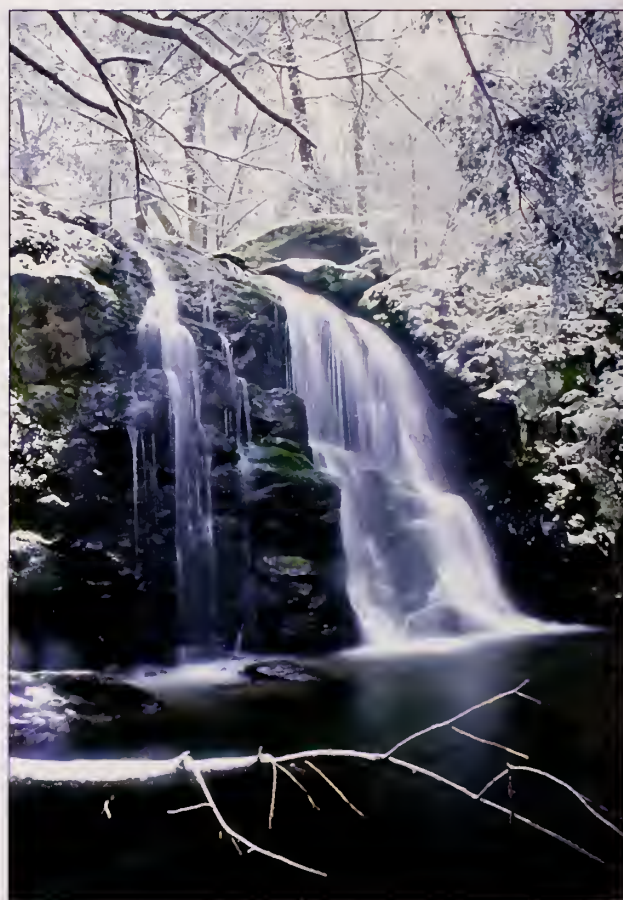
Ron Wood

Second place goes to Ron Wood, of Richmond, for his beautiful scene titled, "Morning Flight" taken from the Belle Island foot bridge over the James River in Richmond, looking west. A beautiful moment Ron! Mamiya 7 medium format camera, no other information reported.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ed Neville

Ed Neville, of Annandale, takes an honorable mention for his chilly scene at Naked Creek Falls. Ed mentions, "Waterfalls are my favorite subjects to photograph and winter is an amazing time to see them." I'll agree with that Ed! Good job! Canon A2E camera, Canon 24mm f2.8 lens, polarizer, Fuji Velvia 50 slide film, 3 seconds, f22.





THIRD PLACE

Michael Spence

Michael Spence, of Henderson, Nevada, wins third place for his graphic image of grass springing from dried clay, taken this past June at a foresting site in Prince Edward County. Good eye, Michael! Canon AE1 camera, no other information reported.

"I remember when an editor at the National Geographic promised to run about a dozen of my landscape pictures from a story on the John Muir trail as an essay, but when the group of editors got together, someone said that my pictures looked like postcards."

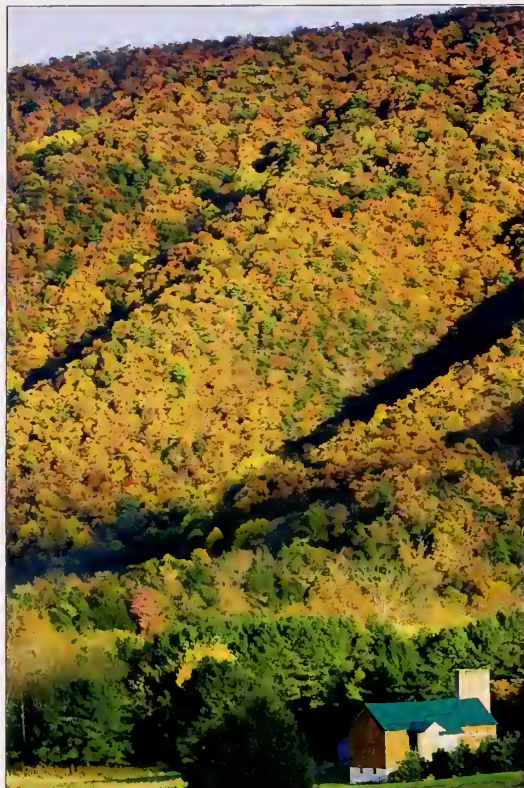
Galen Rowell



HONORABLE MENTION

Charlie Willis

Honorable mention is awarded to Charlie Willis, of Chester, for his glowing scene of fall foliage at the base of a fern garnished tree along the Blue Ridge near Crabtree Falls. Gorgeous shot Charlie! Konica-Minolta Dimage Z2 (digital) camera, tripod, shutter priority, no other information reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Eric Schauer

Eric Schauer, of Maurertown, wins an honorable mention for his colorful photograph of a Civil War era barn nestled below a mountain of fiery, fall foliage taken in his hometown. Wow, good spotting Eric! Nikon D2H (digital) camera, Nikkor 80-400 VR lens, Gitzo tripod, shutter release, settings not reported.

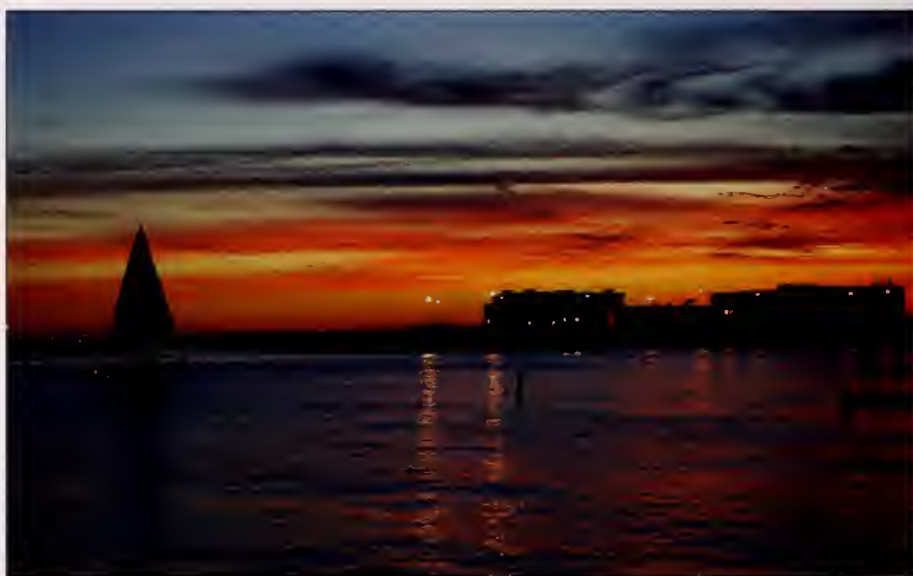


HONORABLE MENTION

Gary Flora

Gary Flora, of Roanoke, grabs an honorable mention for his striking image of the rugged landscape of Mount Rogers taken in the fall of 2003. Gary says he drove up to White Top, thinking it was the highest peak, and hiked the freezing, wind-swept ridge looking for a photograph, which he obviously found. Way to stick with it Gary! Nikon N90 camera, settings not reported.

Scenic Seasons



HONORABLE MENTION

Bob Harper

An honorable mention goes to Bob Harper, of Hampton, for his tranquil scene of a sailboat at sunset. What a beautiful, calming image, Bob! Nikon D70 (digital) camera, 18-70mm f3.5-4.5G lens, ISO 200, 1/125th, f.4.5.

Cold and Clammy Critters



"New snakes are not a problem. I'd go to any country, any place, any snakes are a problem."

Steve Irwin
"The Crocodile Hunter"

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FIRST PLACE

Travis Nunn

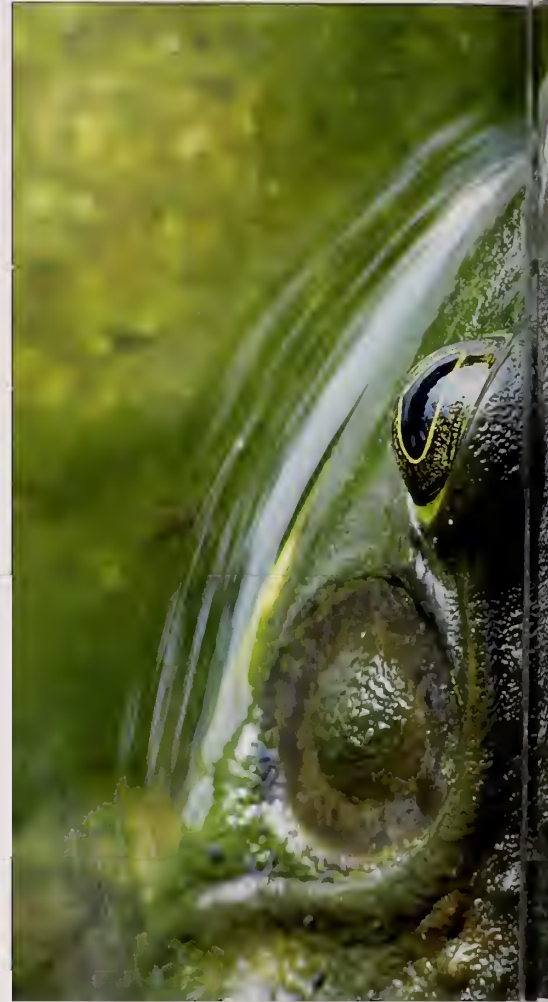
Travis Nunn, of Richmond, wins first place for his startling photograph of a black racer rearing up to get a better look around. A rare behavior to observe, much less get a photograph of, Travis captured this image during a trip to the Hog Island Wildlife Management Area. Way to go Travis! Canon EOS Elan II camera, Canon 400mm lens, Fuji Velvia 50 slide film, settings not reported.



SECOND PLACE

Charlie Willis

Second place goes to Charlie Willis of Chester, for his wonderful green tree frog photograph taken along the James River near Dutch Gap. Good spotting Charlie! Nikon D70 (digital) camera, Nikkor 300mm f.4.0 AFS-ED lens, TC-17EII teleconverter, Bogen 3021BN tripod, Linhoff ball head, flash, settings not reported.



THIRD PLACE

Gayle Fisher

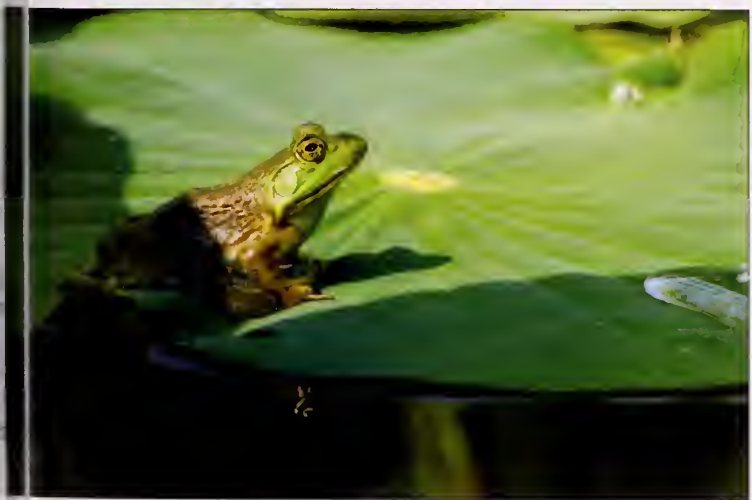
Gayle Fisher, of Virginia Beach, captures third place for her great close up portrait of a bullfrog shot from above. Taken during a trip to Maymont Park in Richmond, Gayle describes how she spotted the frog backed up against a boulder in the Japanese Garden. Unable to get a shot from either side of the boulder, Gayle decided to climb it instead and shoot downward on the frog. She said she had to lean so far over the rock that when she took the photograph her feet weren't even touching the ground. Cool picture, Gayle! Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ20 (digital) camera, Nikon 5T and 6T close up adaptors, 1/160th at f3.3.



HONORABLE MENTION

Carolyn Bare-Tabailloux

Carolyn Bare-Tabailloux, of Scottsville, grabs an honorable mention for her portrait of an apparently happy northern water snake chowing down on a madtom. Carolyn reports that as she was preparing her kayak to run the rapids at Balcony Falls on the James River at Glasgow, she spotted this water snake looking for a spot to enjoy its lunch. Camera in hand, she shot pictures, moving closer and closer to finally get this great image. Later that same day, Carolyn "had an accident" in her kayak which water-logged her camera. The camera could not be fixed, but her disk was salvaged, along with this image. PHEW! Great moment Carolyn! Kodak DX 6340 (digital) camera, auto mode, optical zoom, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Douglas Graham

An honorable mention goes to Douglas Graham, of Bluemont, for his beautiful, eye level photograph of a green frog resting on a lily pad. Great photograph Douglas! Nikon D2X (digital) camera, Nikkor 600mm f.4.0 lens, Gitzo tripod, Kirk ball head, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Richard D. Cox

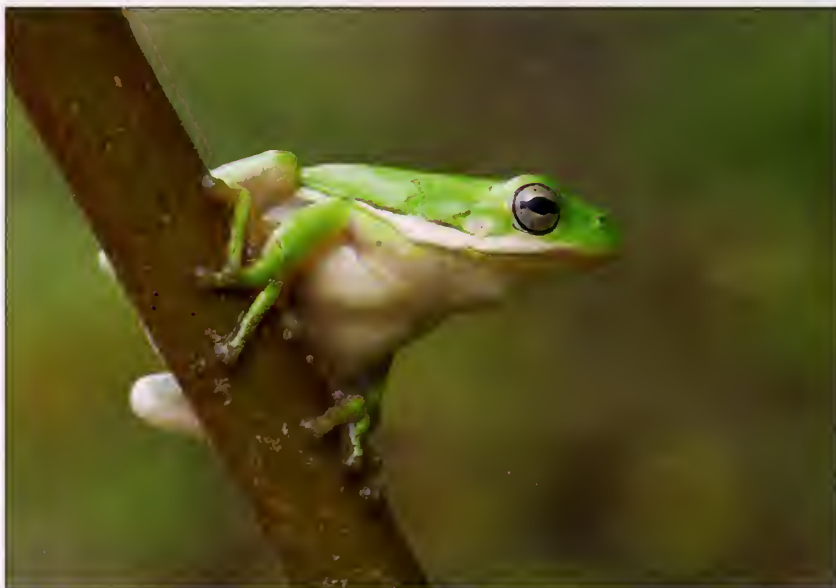
An honorable mention goes to Richard D. Cox, of Bumpass, for his up close and personal portrait of a snapping turtle. Richard reports that he was on one of his daily walks in his subdivision common area by Lake Anna when he came across this turtle. Good job, Richard! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 70-200mm f2.8 L lens, tripod, ISO 400, 1/125th, f.13.



HONORABLE MENTION

Joyce T. Sims

Joyce T. Sims, of Radford, wins an honorable mention for her delightful picture of painted turtles sunning themselves on a log. Wonderful shot Joyce! Camera and settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

William Brozy

William Brozy, of Fredericksburg, could have missed this honorable mention winner. William says that he was so focused on another macro subject that it was close to an hour before he even noticed this small green tree frog only a couple of feet away. Good spotting William! Nikon D100 (digital) camera, 105mm f2.8 lens, extension tube, tripod, cable release, ISO 250, 2.5 seconds, f16.

HONORABLE MENTION

Tim Farmer

Yipes! This "too close for comfort" portrait of a 4-foot-long black rat snake grabs an honorable mention for Tim Farmer, of Round Hill. Tim mentions that he captured this shot of "Matilda," a resident of the State Arboretum in Clarke County. Matilda is known to frequent the more sunny areas of the facility "often fascinating or startling staff and visitors alike." Tim says this photograph was taken this past November. I guess she was looking for a sunny spot, wasn't she? Good job Tim! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 28-135mm IS lens, hand held, 1/125th at f.5.



The Sporting Life



FIRST PLACE

Ed Neville

Ed Neville, of Annandale, wins first place for his moody photograph of a hiker along a foggy section of the Crabtree Falls hiking trail taken in early June. Mountain laurel and rhododendron were in peak bloom making the scene ideal. Beautiful image Ed! Canon A2E camera, 24mm f2.8 lens, Fuji Velvia 50 slide film, settings not reported.

John Muir



SECOND PLACE

Terry Crider

Second place goes to Terry Crider, of Fredericksburg, for her photograph, "Best Friends Fishing." Terry reports that this is a picture of her son, Eric, and his best friend, Joe, fishing at her father-in-laws' pond in Albemarle County. Wow, can a fishing hole look any better than this? Great shot Terry! Canon EOS Digital Rebel camera, Canon 18-55mm lens, ISO 400, 1/50th, f.5.6.

The Sports

HONORABLE MENTION

Gary R. Flora

An honorable mention goes to Gary R. Flora, of Roanoke, for his photograph of a brace of English pointers on a hunt in Craig County. "Honoring the Point," captures the classic moment when two dogs working together come together as a team. When the first dog claims the point, the second dog honors the first by "backing" him for a moment that makes any bird hunter proud. I agree with you Gary, you don't have to shoot a gun to enjoy a moment like this! Wonderful photograph! Olympus C5050 (digital) camera, program mode, no other settings reported.





ng Life

THIRD PLACE

Hatcher Crenshaw

Hatcher Crenshaw, of Richmond, takes third place for his action shot of a family friend learning to slalom ski on the Chesapeake Bay. Good job Hatcher! Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT camera, 75-300mm lens, settings not reported.



"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature."

Anne Frank



HONORABLE MENTION

Linda Christenson

Linda Christenson, of Troutville, receives an honorable mention for her delightful photograph of her son, Keith, showing his son, Connor, (Linda's grandson) how to find bait under rocks while fishing at Lake Fairfax. What a memorable shot Linda! Olympus D-565 Zoom (digital) camera, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Paul Schaapman

The Virginia 4-H Championships at Holiday Lake offered a great photo opportunity to Paul Schaapman, of Chesterfield, with this honorable mention winning image. Paul captured the exact moment when a competitor for the Powhatan Shooting Club, pulled the trigger of her muzzleloader. Cool shot Paul! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 28-200mm lens, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Marisa B. Deane

We don't get many black and white photographs anymore, but this one really caught our eye for an honorable mention. Marisa B. Deane, of Ruckersville, captured a relaxing moment during the Spring Turkey Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt at the New Kent Forestry Center. As Marisa reports, "It's about the new friends made, the camaraderie, and good times shared. This photo captures 'the guys' telling stories after the morning's hunt." What a nice moment Marisa! Canon EOS Rebel G camera, 75-200mm lens, settings not reported.

Marvelous Mammals



FIRST PLACE

Ruimin Wang

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."

Aristotle

First place goes to Ruimin Wang, of Fairfax, for his beautifully composed photograph of a doe licking her alert fawn in a fern-covered meadow. Photographed in gorgeous light with a clean foreground and background really makes this a winner. "Mom's Love" was taken this year in Shenandoah National Park. Congratulations Ruimin! Nikon D100 (digital) camera, Nikkor 70-300mm lens, settings not reported.



Marvelous Mammals

"If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."

Chief Seattle

SECOND PLACE

Jackie B. Labovitz

Jackie B. Labovitz, of Bentonville, claims second place for this delightful image of a chipmunk stuffing its cheeks with seeds. Jackie captured "Clutching" in the Shenandoah Valley. Great job Jackie! Canon DCS 520 (digital) camera, Canon 100-400mm IS lens, hand held, ISO 200, 1/100th, f.6.3.



THIRD PLACE

Eric Skrzypczak

During a sunset walk through the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Eric Skrzypczak, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, spotted an animal walking through the underbrush. As the opossum looked up, Eric was able to capture this third place-winning pose. Good spotting Eric! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Swarovski HD-STS80 spotting scope, TLS800mm camera adapter, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Patricia P. Turner

Patricia P. Turner, of Wingina, captures an honorable mention for this photograph of a really "WOW" subject. This is a true, albino, white-tailed buck (note the pink eyes and white velvet on the antlers). After a little research I came across these statistics; 1 in 100,000 fawns are born true albino but since they usually don't live very long, there is only a 1 in 1,000,000 chance to actually see one, much less photograph one. The judges would have liked to have placed this image higher but it wasn't quite as sharp as we would have liked. This might sound picky, but I want you to know we agonized and "discussed" this photograph for quite some time before we made any placements. Patricia reports that the buck was discovered on a friend's property in Nelson County, and both her and her husband hid in the trees on the property this summer to snap the shot. And where exactly was this Patricia? Patience and planning pays! Canon EOS Rebel XT (digital) camera, Canon 200mm zoom lens, sports setting, other settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Alli Baird

This normal looking white-tailed buck, in a better than average scene, won an honorable mention for Alli Baird, of Richmond. The photo was taken on a J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College wildlife photography class field trip to Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park this past November. Alli was able to capture a rutting buck against a mountainous skyline. Please note the little bits of fresh green moss in his antlers. An A+ photograph! Nikon N-80 camera, Nikkor 70-300mm lens, Fuji Velvia 50 slide film, 1/90th, f.11.



HONORABLE MENTION

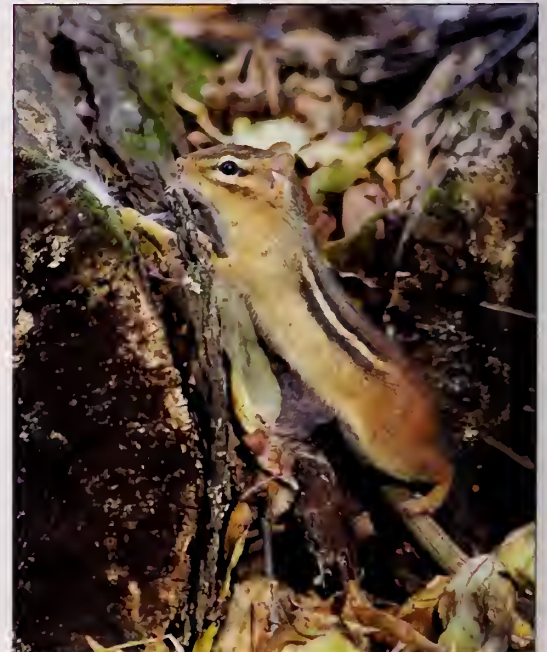
Denise Martin

Denise Martin takes an honorable mention, for this alert Eastern cottontail taken in Shenandoah National Park in the Big Meadows area. Denise reports, "My husband, Charlie, and I were in the woods following a buck (trying to get some pictures of it) when I heard something move to the right of me. I looked and there was this rabbit just sitting there maybe 8 to 10 feet from me. I didn't get any pictures of the buck but I got some nice ones of this rabbit." Yes, you did! Good spotting Denise! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 75-300mm IS lens, 1/50th, f5.

HONORABLE MENTION

Denise Martin

Denise Martin, of Glen Allen, captures another honorable mention with her winning image taken during the same J. Sargeant Reynolds wildlife photography class field trip this past November. "While up there (Big Meadows) we saw LOTS of chipmunks. This one seemed to stay close to his "home" in between the logs. Several of us were taking pictures as he would climb up the log, sit for a minute, then go back and hide...." Great shot Denise! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 75-300mm IS lens, 1/200, f.5.6.



A Bug's Life



FIRST PLACE

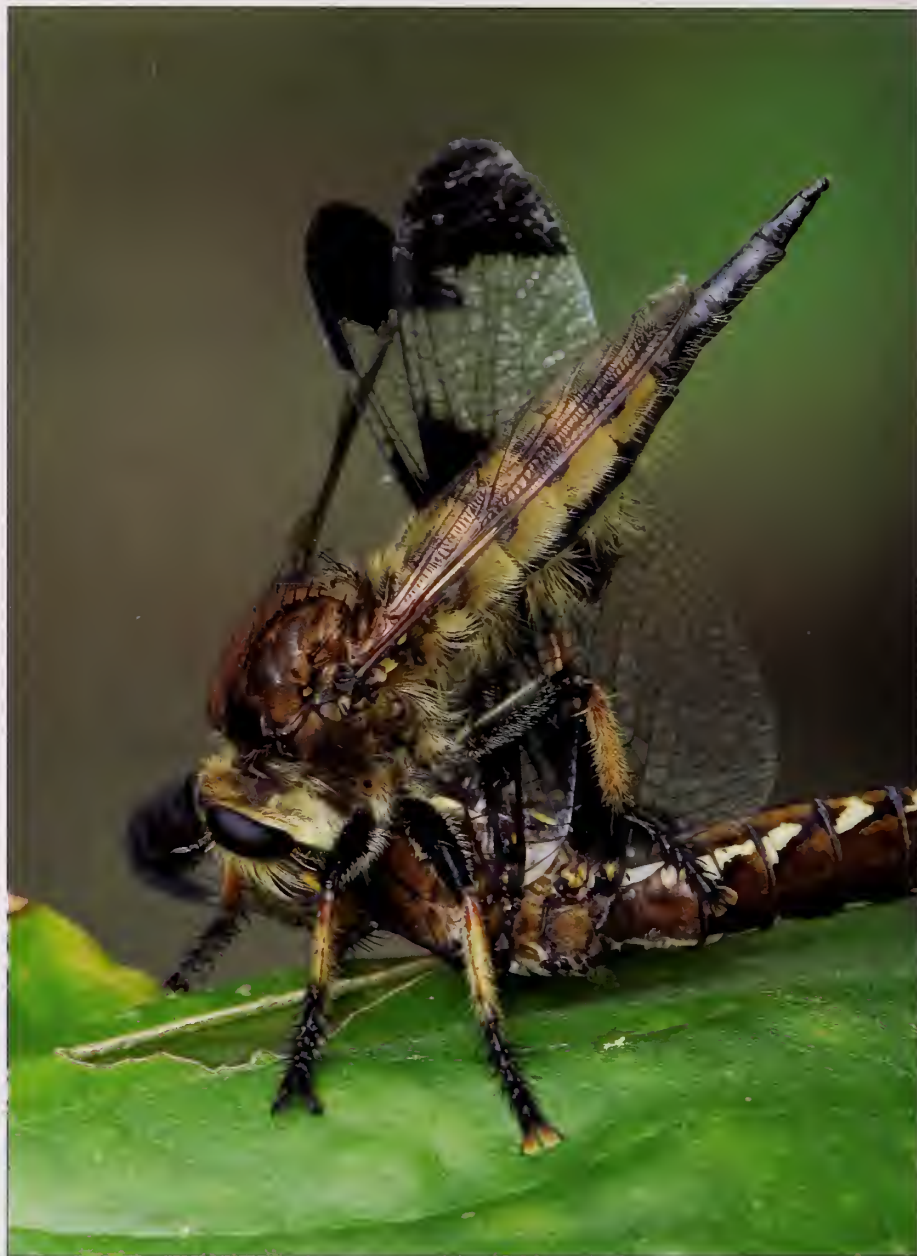
John Matthews

First place is awarded to John Matthews, of Harrogate, Tennessee, for his beautiful photograph of a flower fly perched on a flower. John photographed this quiet moment in Jonesville, Virginia. Congratulations on a beautiful photograph John! Sony Cyber-shot F707 (digital) camera, Carl Zeiss F.2.0-2.8 lens, auto exposure, macro mode, hand-held, settings not reported.

SECOND PLACE

William Brozy

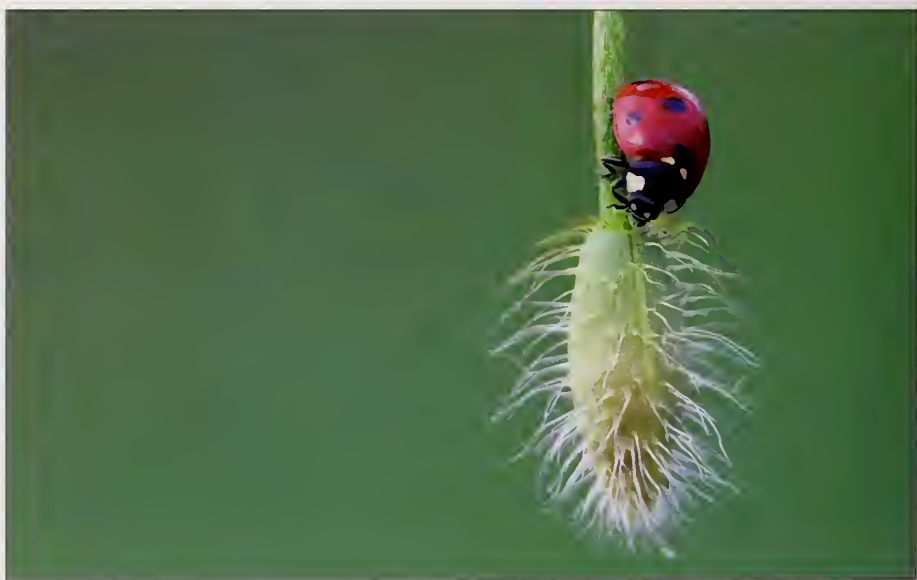
William Brozy, of Fredericksburg, captures second place with his incredible closeup of a robber fly after it captured a dragonfly. William said, "In the late summer, robber flies are the "baddest" bugs around. One morning, this past August, I watched this one chase after dragonflies for an hour. Luckily, it was successful with its hunt and decided to eat breakfast right in front of me." Observation and patience pays. Way to watch William! Nikon D100 (digital) camera, 300mm f.4.0 lens, extension tubes, tripod, cable release, ISO 250, 1/8th, f.9.



HONORABLE MENTION

Jackie B. Labovitz

Jackie B. Labovitz, of Bentonville, wins an honorable mention for her lovely ladybug image, "Descending," photographed in the Shenandoah Valley. Beautiful shot Jackie! Canon DCS 520 (digital) camera, Tamron 28-300mm lens, extension tube, ISO 200, hand held, 1/640th, f.4.





THIRD PLACE

Julie Connelly

Third place goes to Julie Connelly, of Rochelle, for her delicate and colorful image of a yellow crab spider. Julie mentions that during a seemingly non-productive photography walk around her farm, she discovered the spider while changing her focus to collecting materials for winter wreaths. Good spotting Julie! Nikon F100 camera, Nikkor 105mm macro lens, circular polarizer, Manfrotto Bogen 34403 tripod, pan tilt head, Fuji Velvia 50 slide film, settings not reported.

"Sometimes you can tell a large story with a tiny subject."

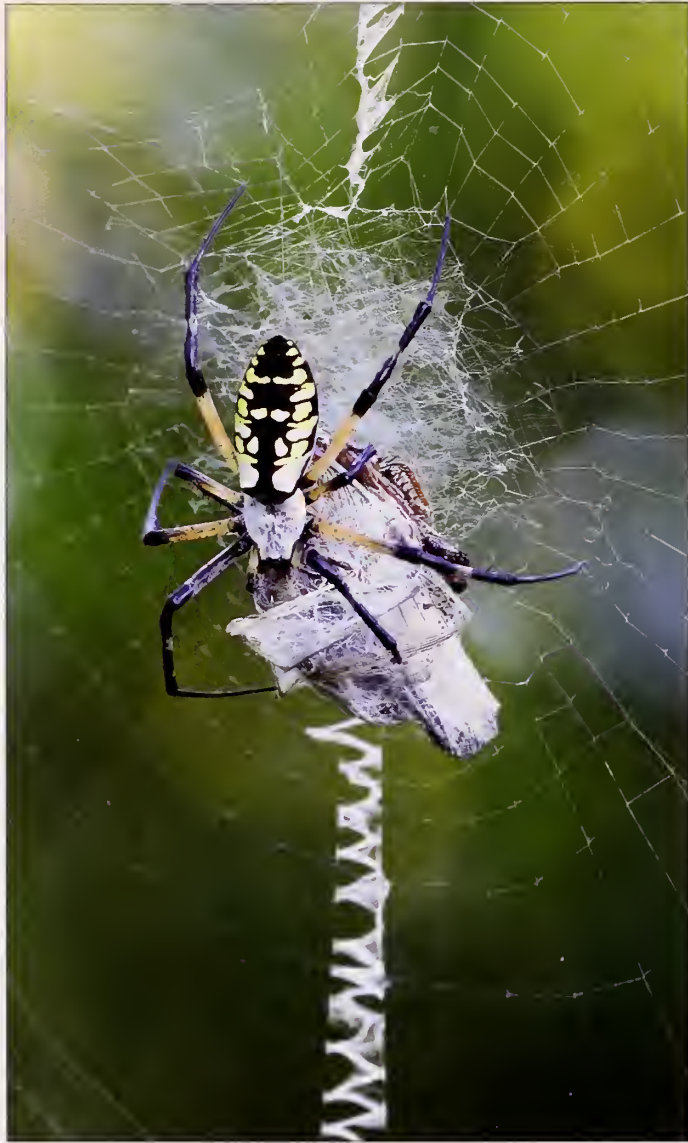
Eliot Porter



HONORABLE MENTION

Gayle Fischer

Gayle Fischer, of Virginia Beach, takes an honorable mention for her closeup of a long legged fly she titled, "Neon." While photographing at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, Gayle was able to capture this tiny fly as it glowed in the sunlight. Nice job Gayle! Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ20 (digital) camera, Nikon 5T and 6T close up lenses, 1/400th, f.6.5.



HONORABLE MENTION

Jim Diersing

An honorable mention is awarded to Jim Diersing, of Manassas, for his surprising photograph of a black and yellow argiope (garden) spider wrapping up a praying mantis. "Spider Versus Mantis" was taken at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge one September morning, when Jim reports he saw dozens of the spiders, most of them having spun their webs, face level in the middle of the path. Great... I'm glad this one didn't end up in your face, Jim! Cool shot! Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT camera, Canon 100-400mm lens, ISO 400, 1/25th, f.11.



HONORABLE MENTION

Eric Schauer

Eric Schauer, of Maurertown, wins an honorable mention for his hilarious, "bug eyed" horse fly. Funny picture Eric! Nikon Coolpix 990 (digital) camera, hand held, settings not reported.

HONORABLE MENTION

Wayne Wolfersberger

An honorable mention is awarded to Wayne Wolfersberger, of Oak Hill, for this unusual image of a 17-year locust emerging from its old skin. Neat image Wayne! Nikon F100 camera, Nikkor 200mm macro lens, Bogen tripod, Fuji Velvia 100 slide film, f22, shutter speed not reported.



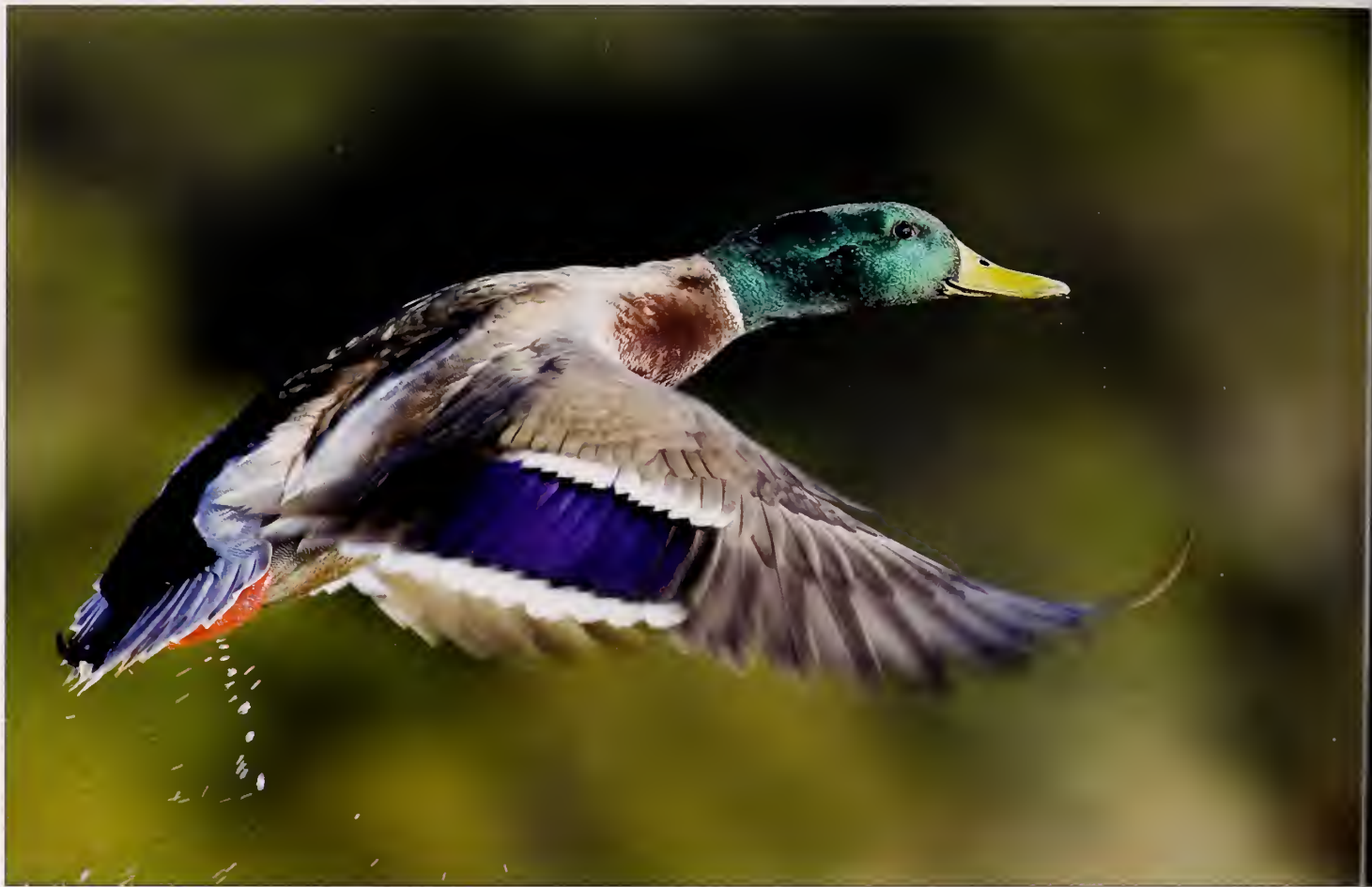
Birds of a Feather



FIRST PLACE

Douglas Graham

First place is awarded to Douglas Graham, of Bluemont, for this "WOW" moment between a juvenile red-tailed hawk and an Eastern gray squirrel. Douglas reports that he was bow hunting from a tree stand in Loudoun County when he observed this once in a lifetime moment. The hawk and the squirrel faced off but the hawk left hungry. Douglas says, "Always take your camera, you just never know what you are going to see." So true, so true.... Congratulations on capturing an awesome image, Douglas! Nikon D2X (digital) camera, Nikkor 70-200mm f2.8 VR lens, hand held, settings not reported.



SECOND PLACE

Jim Diersing

Jim Diersing, of Manassas, claims second place for his gorgeous photograph, "Mallard Blast-Off." Jim says that he was walking along the Wildlife Loop at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge when he spotted a group of mallards "dabbling in a narrow creek." Planning for his shot, Jim positioned himself to where he thought the flock would fly and he "nailed" this image of a mallard drake with a perfect down beat of the wings and water still dripping from its feet. Truly a WOW photograph, Jim! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 400mm lens, ISO 200

HONORABLE MENTION

Eric Skrzypczak

Eric Skrzypczak, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, captured an honorable mention with this hilarious photograph of an apparently bored tree swallow. During a trip to Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Eric says that when he first saw this bird he thought he'd seen it yawn but couldn't believe it. His next thought was asking the bird to do it again and here, you can see he got his wish on the third yawn! The power of positive thinking! Good job Eric! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Swarovski HD-STS80 spotting scope, TLS800mm camera adapter, settings not reported.





THIRD PLACE

James Ford, Jr.

You don't have to have super closeup shots to win. James Ford, Jr., of Orange, captures third place with his photograph of a barn owl flying away from a barn. James reports that this photograph was taken "during an inspection of a barn owl nesting box which had been placed in the old red barn three years before. The nesting box had four young owlets at the time this picture was taken of the female leaving the barn." Helping wildlife can be so rewarding. Great shot James! Fuji FinePix S3 (digital) camera, Sigma 70-300mm lens, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

J. Brett Whitesell

J. Brett Whitesell, of Pulaski, wins an honorable mention for his delightful photograph of a ruby-throated hummingbird taken at Draper Mountain. Canon EOS 10D (digital) camera, Canon 300mm f2.8 lens, 1.4X teleconverter, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Alli Baird

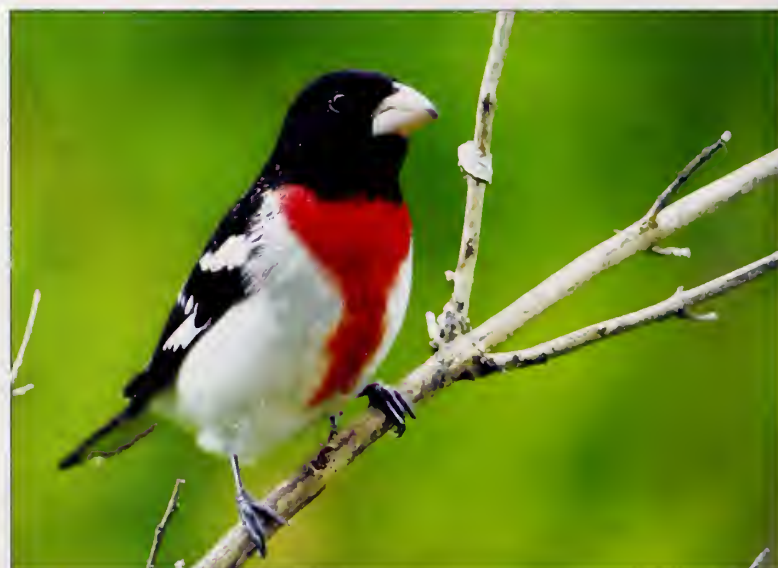
You saw the first place winning shot of a stand-off between a juvenile red-tailed hawk and a gray squirrel. Well, here is what happens when the squirrel loses! Alli Baird, of Richmond, captured an honorable mention winning look into the more graphic drama of the natural world in action; eat or be eaten. Alli had been following a family of hawks for two summers before she was finally able to capture the photograph she wanted. Squirrel tartar anyone? Way to be persistent Alli! Nikon N-80 camera, Sigma 80-300mm lens, Velvia 100 slide film, 1/15th, f.5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Lee Hesler

An honorable mention goes to Lee Hesler, of Richmond, for his icy image of a tufted titmouse. Lee says that he took this picture in January 2005 after an overnight freezing rainstorm. For photographic purposes, Lee had attached a branch to his bird feeder, which had iced up in the storm. When the birds began feeding the next day, Lee had a lovely perch to photograph them on. It was very dark that day but by raising his ISO, Lee was able to get this wonderful shot. Way to go Lee! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 75-300mm lens, ISO 1600, 1/100th, f.13.



HONORABLE MENTION

Robert E. Wallace

Robert E. Wallace, of Roanoke, wins an honorable mention for his beautiful photograph of a rose breasted grosbeak taken in his backyard. What a colorful, well-composed, clean image Robert! Nikon D100 (digital) camera, Sigma 500mm lens, settings not reported.

Fantastic Flowers



FIRST PLACE

Eric Schauer

First place is awarded to Eric Schauer, of Maurertown, for his intriguing image of a fall colored sycamore leaf next to running water captured using a slow shutter speed. Congratulations on a lovely photograph Eric! Nikon D2H (digital) camera, Nikkor 80-400mm VR lens, Gitzo tripod, shutter release, settings not reported.



SECOND PLACE

Ruimin Wang

Ruimin Wang takes second place with his beautiful, backlit dandelion seed head taken in Shenandoah National Park. Wonderful photograph Ruimin! Nikon D100 (digital) camera, Nikkor 70-300mm lens, settings not reported.

*"Weeds are flowers too, once you
get to know them "*

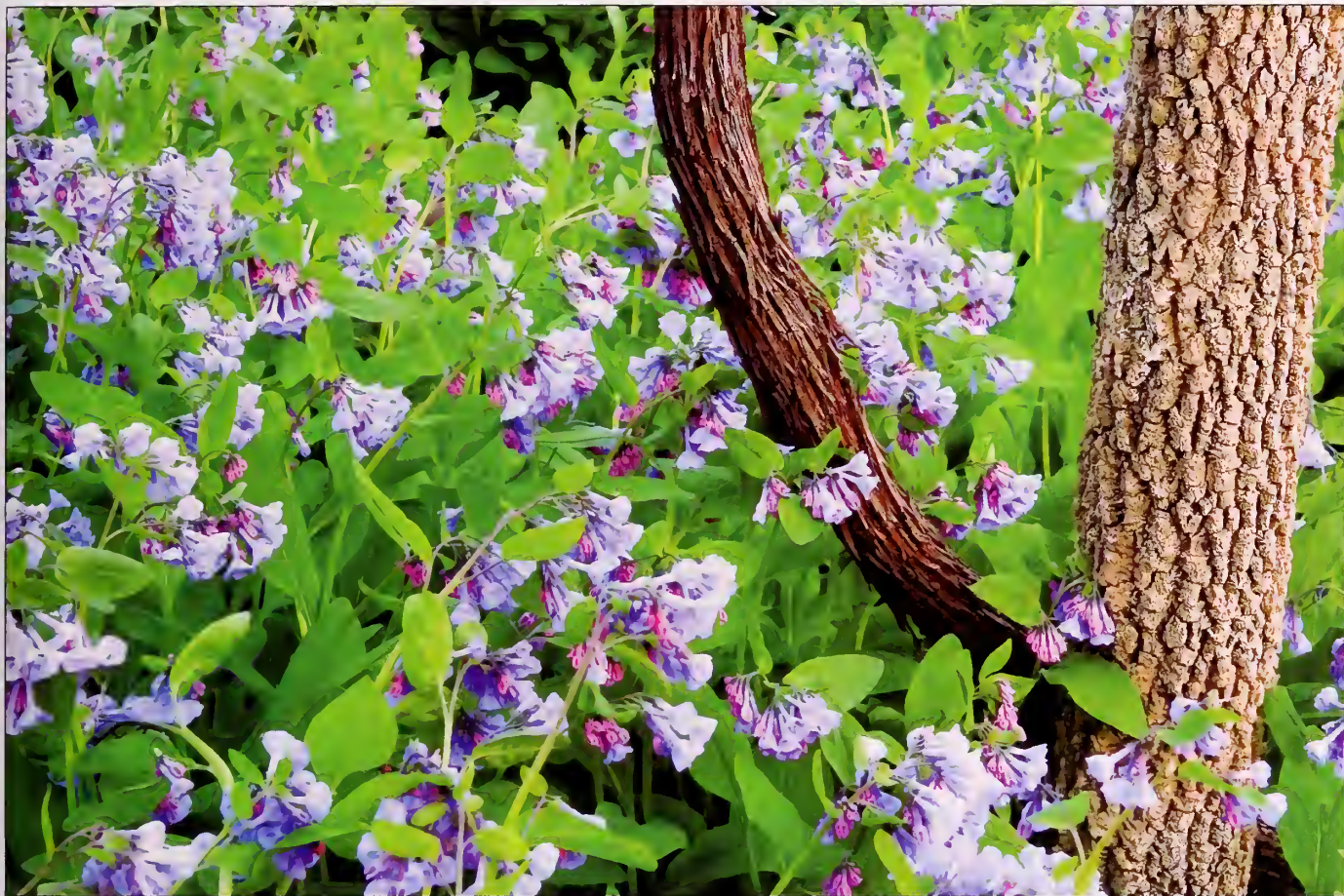
Eeyore from *"Winnie the Pooh"*
(A. A. Milne)



HONORABLE MENTION

Alli Baird

Alli Baird wins another honorable mention, this time for her image of fungi, which she found while photographing in "The Wetlands" at the Pony Pasture Park in Richmond. Way to go Alli! Nikon N-80 camera, Nikkor 70-300mm lens, Fuji Velvia 100 slide film, 1/6th, f.11.



THIRD PLACE

Eric Schauer

WOW! Eric Schauer, of Maurertown, wins again with this third place photograph of Virginia bluebells in a forest. Beautiful color and texture Eric! Nikon D2H (digital) camera, Nikkor 17-55 DX lens, Gitzo tripod, shutter release, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Kathy M. Manley

Kathy M. Manley, of Arlington, captures an honorable mention for her image of a columbine seed pod found in her own back yard. Good job Kathy! Canon EOS 20D (digital) camera, Canon 60mm macro lens, ISO 400, 1/400th, f.7.1.



HONORABLE MENTION

Vangie Poggemiller

A walk near home in Campbell County produced an honorable mention winner for Vangie Poggemiller, of Rustburg. That's where Vangie spied these mushrooms last fall. Great spotting Vangie! Nikon N55 camera, Tamron 28-200mm lens, Kodak 200 or 400 ISO film, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

D. Matthew Monticelli

An honorable mention is awarded to D. Matthew Monticelli, of Richmond, for his photograph of rain soaked foliage along the Appalachian Trail in George Washington National Forest at Three Ridges Recreational Area. Good job lugging your camera through a rain storm Matthew! Nikon N65 camera, Sigma E f3.5, 28-80mm zoom lens, polarizer, Bogen 3021 tripod, Bogen 488 RCO ball head, Kodak E100VS slide film, 8 seconds, f.22.

"A flower touches everyone's heart."

Georgia O'Keefe

Kids & Cameras 6-12



FIRST PLACE

Dillon Rapalee

Congratulations to Dillon Rapalee, of Goochland, for his first place winning photograph of baby praying mantis' hatching from an egg case. Dillon is 12 years old, a seventh grader at Goochland Middle School, and loves photography. Great spotting Dillon! Nikon Coolpix 2100 (digital) camera, settings not reported.



SECOND PLACE

Nancy Martin

Nancy Martin, of Glen Allen, captures second place with her delightful image of a doe resting at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park. Nancy, who is only 6 years old, reports, "This deer was laying down and looked right at me." A pretty amazing shot for a 6 year old! Awesome job Nancy! Olympus 750Z (digital) camera, 1/200th, f3.2.



THIRD PLACE

Kelly Elizabeth Compton

Third place is awarded to Kelly Elizabeth Compton, of Griffin, Georgia, for her lovely photograph of an adult osprey on a rather large nest. Kelly says that she captured this image while visiting her grandparents, who live on the Chicahominy River. Way to go Kelly! Canon EOS 10D (digital) camera, ("passed over to her from her mom"), settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Michael Hall

An honorable mention is awarded to 6-year-old Michael Hall, of Rocky Mount, for his beautiful photograph of swallowtail butterflies feeding on Joe-Pie Weed. Michael took this picture at his "Poppa's Pond" this past summer, while learning to use his new camera. WOW, great first photograph Michael! Kodak 35mm point and shoot camera, type unspecified.



HONORABLE MENTION

Bailey Costello

Eight-year-old Bailey Costello, of Willis, takes an honorable mention for his cold and clammy pickerel frog spotted hiding in a creek. Way to spot 'em Bailey! Camera and settings not reported.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Pablo Picasso



HONORABLE MENTION

Clay Branscom

Eleven-year-old Clay Branscom, of Dublin, is awarded an honorable mention for his tranquil scene of fall leaves gathered on a log in Little Creek in Dublin. Clay spotted this image during a walk along the creek. Good eye Clay! Fujifilm Finepix E510 (digital) camera, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Jake Rogerson

An honorable mention is awarded to 9-year-old Jake Rogerson, of Virginia Beach, for his great photograph of life on a pond. Jake captured the scene just after a great blue heron snagged its lunch and a flock of Canada geese swam off. Good timing Jake! Camera and settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Dillon Rapalee

Dillon Rapalee, our first place winner, is also awarded an honorable mention for his adorable look into the nest box of a bluebird. Way to go Dillon! Nikon Coolpix 2100 (digital) camera, settings not reported.

Kids & Cameras 13-18



*"Young people, I want to tell you
something very important to what
Hobby Natures has achieved for you. By
winning you will have many valuable
things for many of your life."*

George Washington Carver

FIRST PLACE



AUSTEN MEREDITH

Congratulations go to 15-year-old Austen Meredith, of Radford, for a first place win for this lovely image of a katydid nymph on a day lily. Beautiful photograph Austen! Olympus C-765 UZ (digital) camera, settings not reported.



"The virtue of the camera is not the power it has to transform the photographer into an artist, but the impulse it gives him to keep on looking."

Brooks Anderson

SECOND PLACE

Shannon Orcutt

Second place is awarded to 17-year-old Shannon Orcutt, of Powhatan, for her wonderful photograph of a snail crawling along a log, which she shot at Pocahontas State Park. Way to go Shannon! Digital camera, type and settings not reported.



THIRD PLACE

Steven Davies

Steven Davies, of New Market, captures third place with this shocking image of a very ambitious garter snake latched onto a goldfish taken at his home. Great spotting Steven! Kodak Easy Share CX7530 (digital) camera, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Garth M. Harbert

Fourteen-year-old Garth M. Harbert, of Leesburg, wins an honorable mention for his close and colorful photograph of a calendula flower taken in his yard. Wonderful shot Garth! Nikon Coolpix 2100 (digital) camera, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Schuyler Cox

An honorable mention is awarded to 17-year-old Schuyler Cox, of Ashland, for this great picture of an American toad hiding at the base of a dead tree in Ashland. Cute image Schuyler! Nikon N70 camera, settings not reported.



HONORABLE MENTION

Christopher Wirth

Sixteen-year-old Grand Prize winner Christopher Wirth, of Powhatan, also wins an honorable mention for his striking image of a white banded crab spider found in his front yard! Way to go Chris! Canon Powershot A95 (digital) camera, close up mode, settings not reported.

2006 Virginia Wildlife Photography Contest

It's time to enter your best photographs and let *Virginia Wildlife* magazine showcase your images for thousands to see. Special prizes will be donated by Eastman Kodak, Richmond Camera and *Virginia Wildlife* and will be given to contest winners. And, two very talented contest winner will have their photographs featured on the cover (adult) and back cover (kid) of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine as the Grand Prize.

Categories

1. *Birds of a Feather*

Photographs must be of birds native to and photographed in Virginia.

2. *Cold and Clammy Critters*

Photographs must be of reptiles, fish and amphibians native to Virginia.

3. *A Bug's Life*

Photographs must be of insects (which include butterflies), spiders, or other creepy-crawlies photographed in Virginia.

4. *Fantastic Flowers*

Photographs must be of flowers, trees, grasses and shrubs that are native to and photographed in Virginia.

5. *Marvelous Mammals*

Photographs must be of mammals native to and photographed in Virginia.

6. *Scenic Seasons*

Photographs will highlight the four seasons; Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall and shot in Virginia.

7. *The Sporting Life*

Pictures should feature hunting, fishing, boating and other outdoor recreational opportunities in Virginia. Please make sure that all activities are done in a SAFE manner (lifejackets, blaze orange, eye and hearing protection...when appropriate).

8. *Kids and Cameras*

This is a two-part category that encourages kids ages 6-12 and 13-18 to enter any of the above categories.

category must be labeled, sleeved and placed in separate envelopes, but may be mailed together in one envelope. Please mail kids and adult entries in separate envelopes.

3. All photographs submitted must have been taken in Virginia within the past five years.

4. All contest entries must be listed on a piece of paper or "Delivery Memo" with your name, address and phone number. Each entry must be individually listed on this paper stating the category in which it is entered and any details on how and where the image was taken. If possible, please indicate camera type, make, model, lens, film and settings used to take the photograph. Feel free to elaborate on any story surrounding the photograph as well. (If we have space we like to include information on how photographs were taken!)

5. Photographs may be sent in any slide/transparency format, such as 35mm, 2 1/4 or 4X5. Slides should be submitted in clear plastic storage sheets for ease of handling by the judges. Also, please note the top of the photograph by writing, "TOP" on the slide mount or on the back of the print. Color and/or black and white prints up to 5x7 or larger may be submitted as well.

Please do not send prints of digital photographs downloaded from a computer unless they are of high quality. Low-end photographic color printers do not produce prints well enough for reproduction in *Virginia Wildlife*. If digital prints (4x6 or bigger) are submitted they should be printed at a professional lab. **A CD containing the original digital file of each image must be included with your submission.** Computer generated photographs that are grainy or show pixilation cannot be accepted for judging. Do not submit photographs which have been digitally manipulated. Manipulation of exposure, cropping and some color correction is acceptable. It is not acceptable to remove or add features to an image. Please include your name, address and phone number on all slides or prints entered.

6. We prefer that all photographs taken be of wild animals or plants in the wild but will ac-

cept photographs of animals or plants taken under "controlled conditions" or in captive situations. Shots of animals or plants in the wild are given preference over captive shots. Wild animals should not be captured for the sole purpose of photographs for this contest. If you do photograph captive or "controlled" animals this **MUST** be stated in the Delivery Memo.

7. A self-addressed, First Class stamped 11" X 14" envelope (SASE) for return of your photographs must accompany all entries. The reason we require an 11 X 14 envelope is so that if your entries win, we can send you a copy of the magazine displaying your winning entry. **Submissions without a First Class SASE WILL NOT be returned!** If return is by Fed Ex (or other courier) please include a form already filled out with your name, address and phone number. **Please do not send money, checks or loose stamps.**

8. Deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m., December 1, 2006. All submissions, except winning entries, will be mailed back by March 31, 2007. Winning entries will appear in the March 2007 issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine and will be returned by May 30, 2007.

9. Mail your contest entries to: 2006 Annual Photography Contest, c/o *Virginia Wildlife* Magazine, (4010 W. Broad St.) P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. The courier address is: 2006 Annual Photography Contest c/o *Virginia Wildlife* Magazine, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230. It is recommended that you send and return your submission by certified, registered mail, or by a courier who uses a tracking number to locate lost packages.

10. *Virginia Wildlife* staff members and well-known wildlife/environmental photographer Lynda Richardson will judge all entries. Contest judges will not be responsible for the receipt of damaged photographs or the return of photographs not accompanied by a self-addressed, First Class stamped envelope.

The Virginia Wildlife Annual Photography Contest is offered as a way to bring greater appreciation of Virginia's wildlife and natural resources.

Rules:

1. The contest is open to any photographer (amateur or professional) except employees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Contest-related usage rights must be available to *Virginia Wildlife*.

2. Each photographer may enter up to five (5) original slides or prints per category. **Each**

**Submissions for the 2006 Virginia Wildlife
Annual Photography Contest
should be postmarked no later than
December 1, 2006.**



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